ing and monitoring the progress of the implementation of the on-going long-term programme of military-technical co-operation between the two countries. No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

Final findings in the Bofors gun deal

347. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Prime Minister observed that the final papers relating to the payments made in connection with Bofors gun deal were expected to reach the country by December, 1998; and

(b) if so, whether these papers, together with the final findings, would be made public and follow-up action initiated against the persons identified as the recipient of the kickback of this controversial deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) PM had, recently, stated in a meeting with the Press that some more papers, realting to BOFORs case, are expected to be sent by the Swiss Authorities at an early date, which may even be in the month of December, 1998.

(b) The matter, relating to transmission of remaining documents from Swiss authorities is, however, pending with the Cantonal Court of Geneva. The documents, even after receipt from Swiss authorities, cannot be made public in view of memorandum of understanding dated 20.02.1989, entered into between the Government of India and the Government of Switzerland. Necessary action will be taken after completion of investigation as per law.

Prevention of anti-national elements from joining security forces

348. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence recruiting authorities have come across a number of cases where foreigners have tried or succeeded in getting themselves recruited in Indian armed forces and para-military forces on the basis of fake Indian citizenship certificates, particlarly in North-Eastern areas of the country;

(b) the number of such cases detected during the last three years;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and action taken to ensure that anti-national elements are prevented from joining security froces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Religious code of conduct for soldiers

349. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that troops join battle by invoking divine blessings and high morale is fostered/strengthened by their spiritual access to unit Mandirs Churches, Masjids and Gurdwaras; and

(b) if so, whether it is not enjoined upon the Sikh soldiers to follow their religious code of conduct which include keeping unshorn hair and putting on turbans, if so, why the Sikh soldiers have been instructed or allowed to use 'Patkas' instead of turbans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The official headgear of Sikh personnel in the Army is turban. The Army does not ask any Sikh Soldier to wear a 'Patka'. Apparently, if some troops are seen wearing Patka, it may be on their own accord.